

NO WAR CLOUDS OVER 1908

SOCIALISM IS EUROPE'S GREAT DANGER IN THE NEW YEAR.

Wild Theories Find Support From the Man in the Street—Heavy Financial Losses of 1907—Americans in London Entertain Lavishly—Health Statistics.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Peace has its victories and its dangers, and the year just closing has seen remarkable developments of both. Europe rejoices to-day in the brightest political weather in which she has ever greeted the advent of the new year. The family of nations never in sweeter accord. Practical diplomacy of a wise, far-seeing type has this year so fashioned international relationships that any breach in the prevailing harmony seems impossible, at all events in the near future.

The Hague conference was largely a failure, and Europe rejoices in that. Rejoices, he understood, in the true interests of peace. Many will account it rank pessimism to rejoice in the triumph of common sense over altruism. They may take heart in the fact that 1907 marks the beginning of a greater struggle between these two forces, the issue of which is more doubtful and the progress of which threatens to disrupt existing political institutions in several countries.

The growth of socialism this year in Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy has been so rapid that it has already become much more than a mere disturbing factor in the domestic politics of each nation. Its influence is so strong upon the existing British Government that within the year, but before the American crisis, it caused a shrinkage in the value of 367 stocks on the London exchange, amounting to \$1,500,000,000.

The Socialist cause in Europe draws its recruits from the opposite extremes of society. Its adherents among the educated classes exemplify more strikingly than the peace enthusiasts at The Hague the struggle between the ideal and the practical. They assume that human nature is unselfish and is quite amenable to the Golden Rule if a chance is given to it. The great mass of their associates in Europe are for socialism only for what there is in it or what they think there is in it for themselves. There is no denying, however, the tremendous growth of their political power in the aggregate. It has reached such proportions that a practical test of socialism on a larger scale than has yet been tried seems well nigh inevitable.

There has been sufficient experience already both in England and on the Continent to give a clear indication of the result, but one must be appalled by the prospect of a trial in whatever unhappy country risks the experiment. France has just had a lesson in the virtual bankruptcy of the franc, one of its most important towns, but the Socialist cause does not seem to suffer by the warning in the country at large. This, then, is one of the greatest dangers of peace which 1907 has developed to gigantic proportions.

EUROPEAN FEDERATION DREAM.

Another Utopian scheme in international affairs, in spite of the fact that the Christmas season, is occupying attention. Sir Max Leonard Waechter again urges the federation of the six great Powers as within the scope of practical politics. He urges that it can be accomplished by a common tariff and free intercourse between the countries. He takes no account of the widely different economic conditions of the nations concerned. He does not concern himself with the fact that one can live with the same degree of comfort, for instance, in Italy for half the sum required in England. He does not consider the necessity for the imposition of the same labor laws and the establishment of practically the same scale of wages in all the countries, nor does he see that the practical effect of his idea will be to reduce labor to the condition of that of the country lowest in the economic scale.

This plan, like others equally impracticable which have been advanced in the name of socialism, will continue to be solemnly debated and the man in the street will consider his views thereof of equal importance with those of the trained economist.

The actual conditions of Europe in these last hours of 1907 are best summarized in the words of the veteran ruler Francis Joseph of Austria in his address from the throne last Saturday when he said: "The migration already noticeable last year of some of the instances of friction in the international situation fortunately continues. The efforts of all the Powers tend increasingly toward centralization and toward the consolidation of general peace by the cultivation of tranquil reciprocal intercourse."

The *Runkers' Magazine* reviewing the financial year points out that it has been disastrous in itself and that it also follows several other years of severe shrinkage in values. The average fall in prices despite the substantial recovery of the last month has been 9 per cent. There has been no depreciation so great in the last twenty years. Consols and Indian funds fell 4 per cent. lower, which represents \$100,000,000. Twenty-six English railways lost in value \$77,000,000, or 5 per cent. Mines suffered the most. South Africans, after steadily declining for several years, lost 23 per cent. more in 1907.

AMERICAN FESTIVITIES.

It is hard to realize the financial condition in America during these holidays, as so many Americans here are entertaining more lavishly than ever. Their Christmas dinners were elaborate, festivities, which many English guests deserted their own holiday celebrations to attend. Thus the flags of both nations mingled as table decorations, and Americans and English united over plum pudding and toasted the King and the President with impartial enthusiasm.

Lady Cunard, who goes to California shortly, gave a large dinner on Friday, at which the Duchess of Manchester was a guest.

Mrs. Almeric Paget's parties have been rather family affairs, as have also those of the Duchess of Roxburghe.

Mr. and Mrs. McCormick Goodheart have had many English guests.

Beckwith have come to town for the holidays, giving up Staveland Lodge at Melton Mowbray, where they have been during the hunting season.

The arrival of Mrs. Potter Palmer at Hampton House is much looked forward to, as during the winter season her dinners and musicals are a great acquisition.

Mrs. Marshall Field will spend several weeks in London and do some entertaining before going to the Continent.

The Duchess of Marlborough and her daughter, Mrs. Belmont, will leave for the Riviera early in February.

Sportsmen are interested in the reports that Alfred Vanderbilt intends during the coming summer to revive the old coaching glories on the road between London and Brighton. George IV, before the Regency days, first gave fashion and fame to the Brighton road, making it the greatest

sporting highway in England. One of his best records was in 1774, when he drove from London to Brighton, fifty-two miles, in four and a half hours, with three horses harnessed tandem to a phaeton. Others of his cronies made equally creditable achievements, but all records were eclipsed in 1888, when the famous whip, Selby, drove to Brighton and back in eight hours.

CHRISTMAS DOINGS.

A real elopement in high life furnished a touch of romance to Christmastide last week. None of the bride's family knew anything about it until after the wedding ring was safely on her finger, but her father, who had been summoned by telegram to Dover, saw the happy couple a few minutes before they went to the Continent for their honeymoon. The bride was Lady Viola Talbot, daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who was recently the host at Ingestre. The bridegroom is named Gore.

Among the festivities booked for January at the fashionable Grafton Galleries is a ball to aid London's Society for Woman Suffrage. The tickets are \$3 each. It is not likely that the ball will be a tremendous success, but it is hoped that the suffragettes in the holiday spirit will be spared the torment of rats, mice and chemicals, which are now daily features of their meetings.

A new women's club called the Elite will shortly open. It is situated in Piccadilly. The only requisites for membership are money and social position. This brings the number of women's clubs up to forty-five.

English hostesses are now being classified as dance hostesses, dinner hostesses and bridge and music hostesses, so that a popular young man may know just which to select among his various invitations. A hostess who has no speciality to offer must be content with occasional patronage from social favorites.

From Brighton comes an account of a rebellion among charitable people against processions of the unemployed who walk the streets dolefully during the holidays, bearing banners with the inscription "We've got no work." Many rich residents have subscribed large sums of money besides donating fuel and food to the various charities on condition that there shall be no gloomy processions. The unemployed agreed to this, so Christmas passed merrily.

ILLNESSES NEW AND OLD.

A new disease, which first appeared in the province, is now puzzling London doctors, who pronounce it a form of influenza. No less than twenty-eight nurses in the London Hospital are suffering from its effects, the most disagreeable feature of which is a rash around the eyes which causes swelling and soreness. Its other characteristics resemble those of influenza.

The report of the medical officer on the health of the county of London, dealing with a population of 4,721,317 for the year 1906, shows a decrease in the death rate by 30 per cent. since the passing of the public health act of 1891. London's rate for 1906 was 15.1 per thousand, which was lower than that of any town in England of over 200,000 population excepting Bristol and Leicester. It is also lower than that of Paris, St. Petersburg, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, Copenhagen and New York.

There is a marked difference between the rates in various districts. Hampstead's rate is 9.4 per thousand. Finsbury's is 20.7, Finsbury being one of the overcrowded districts of London. London shows the lowest infant mortality of all the towns excepting Bristol. Nevertheless the deaths of children under one year old are 131 per thousand births. The deadliest disease is diarrhoea.

There were no deaths during the year from smallpox, the lowest record excepting in 1909. Scarlet fever, diphtheria and whooping cough are decreasing in virulence and typhus has almost died out. There were only 4 cases of it during the year, none of them fatal. Typhoid fever increased. There were 290 deaths, as compared with 234 in 1905. The majority of the cases were traceable to the consumption of shellfish, especially cockles, and to the use of water-cress.

Phthisis increased. There were 8,775 deaths from it, as compared with 6,822 in 1905. Cancer is also increasing. It was responsible for 4,589 deaths.

More stringent inspection of food and milk supply and the diminution of overcrowding are the most needed reforms.

At last the habitual liar has his scientific justification. The *Medical Journal* of London, in an issue of December 14, states that it is produced by certain forms of indigestion. These children who spontaneously fib are unconsciously suffering from acute dyspepsia and older people who misstate facts need only change their diet to become veracious.

GREAT UNREST IN CHINA.

Reactionary Decrees Stir Up Native Newspapers—Trouble Feared.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 28.—The native newspapers denounce the decrees from the throne of December 25 and 26 and predict trouble in Kiangsu and Chekiang.

The decree of December 25 told the people they must not demand a constitution too soon and appointed a board to frame a constitution for the government of political societies. This was aimed at the agitators. The other, which was also of a reactionary character, ordered the people not to discuss state affairs or hold meetings and also commanded the press not to refer to such questions.

The Wai Wu Pu (Board of Foreign Affairs) has ordered that all meetings of agitators be suppressed.

The Weather.

The disturbance which was central over the upper Lake region on Friday was moving out the St. Lawrence Valley yesterday, attended by rain in the lower Lakes and St. Lawrence Valley and cloudiness in the middle Atlantic and New England States.

Rain also fell in Georgia and Alabama and in the north Pacific section, where another low area was appearing.

Throughout the interior of the country the pressure was high and the weather generally fair.

The principal high pressure area was central over the lower Missouri Valley, bringing a cold wave, which spread from the Rocky Mountains to the upper Lake region, with declines in temperature of 5 to 34 degrees.

It was also colder in the lower Lake region, Ohio Valley and Southwest into Texas. The lowest reported was 2 degrees below zero from points in Minnesota and North Dakota. In the Gulf States east of the Mississippi River and all the Atlantic States it was warmer.

In this city the day was cloudy with occasional light rain; warmer; wind light to fresh southwest; average humidity, 86 per cent.; barometer, corrected to sea level, at 5 A. M., 30.92; 3 P. M., 30.81.

The temperature yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table:

WASHINGTON FORECAST FOR TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW.
For eastern New York, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Virginia, fair and much colder to-day; fair to-morrow; fresh northwesterly winds.
For New England, fair and colder to-day; fair to-morrow; fresh northwesterly winds.
For western New York and western Pennsylvania, fair to-day; snow or rain to-morrow; light variable winds, becoming easterly.

PARIS SERIOUS OVER TOYS

MIMIC WAR AND DISASTER STIR UP THE MORALISTS.

Some of the Things the Gay City Eat in Celebrating Christmas—Gen. Brude Out of Morocco—Comedie Francaise Scrapping—The Women Cab Drivers.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Dec. 28.—In this season of universal good will and pleasures the *Petit Journal* publishes to-day what purports to be a special Shanghai despatch announcing that the Chinese recently adopted a new national hymn which was inaugurated at the time of Secretary Taft's visit and mystified the Secretary, who thought that "America" was being played in his honor and the words translated into Chinese until it was explained to him that China had resolved to put herself in line with modern nations and had adopted the air of "God Save the King," knowing that it would please the Americans and the English equally and would suit China just as well.

The aspect of the boulevards has been completely transformed as usual at this time of year by the crude wooden shanties erected on the edge of the sidewalks for the sale of holiday novelties, which are supposedly manufactured by those who tend these booths. There has come to be a considerable public feeling of indignation against the custom of selling these toys to rejoice in blood, bluster, blunders and carelessness regarding the lives of others. It is suggested that inasmuch as these barracks, whose prototypes graced the Pont Neuf in the Middle Ages and reached the boulevards only in Revolutionary times, have become an institution of Paris the city should open a competition for architects for the best design of a uniform structure in the nature of a Swiss chalet, thus transforming the boulevards every year into a Swiss village with the modern facilities of electric illumination and Paris's accomplishments in the way of temporary decorations. The idea suggests a picture of the boulevards transformed into fairyland.

The anti-German grumblers admire the toys but object strenuously to the marks which indicate that they came straight from Berlin. As to the critics who argue from toys to morals they are unquestionably mollycoddlers. They look upon girls' toys, consisting almost exclusively of doll babies with miniature trousseaus, and the like, and find them good.

"The little mamas of to-morrow," says one sober writer commendably, "they retain the same playthings always." But passing to the boys he finds that through their toys they are going to the dogs of war and worse. Instead of miniature theatres and blockhouses they have aeroplanes, torpedo boats and war automobiles. Horrors heaped upon horrors he finds, giving an illusion of firing at living birds, and a moving gearbox that they can make explode at will.

These things show all too clearly the advance of the toy-maker's art from the realm of fancy to a sense of up-to-dateness and advanced science, unaccompanied by a corresponding sense of moral progress. Why, a boy could even receive a present of a graphic representation of the taking of Casablanca. The ability of ancient boys to play war with tin soldiers seems to this depressed critic far for their moral edification than that they should be permitted to play with fabrications which represent accidents as amusing for instance, a submarine which explodes or an automobile which not only may have a crash but is supplied with mechanism so perfect that the boy can have a crash or not according to whether he wishes to be amused at sinister accidents. There is the danger, in the writer's eyes, yet he finds this trait an evil of the day encouraged by the toys.

"I saw recently," he says, "some children on the Faubourg, where there is much traffic and little regulation and consequently many motor accidents. They were going from school to the Bois. First marched a tall boy with a white flag improvised from a handkerchief. After him was a smaller boy with his shirt torn open,

TOYS OF DISASTER.

M. Rivet in a report to the Senate, accuses the Comedie of giving pieces in no way worthy of a national theatre. But its programmes are not the only cause of criticism. The Comedie pays its actors smaller fixed salaries than many might obtain elsewhere, plus the percentage of profits. It is the settling of the percentage that each should have that is causing the greatest trouble. Resignations and threats to resign have rained in, especially from societies who appear in classical tragedies. They complain that they are less well treated than those who appear in modern pieces.

In defence it is pointed out that it is the modern pieces which make the money that enables the classics to be given, as the Government grant is wholly insufficient.

THE LADY CARRIES.

The cab drivers have wholly ceased to care whether women drive cabs. They have learned that they have no need to fear serious competition, since the cocheres like women lawyers, find one reason or another to leave the driver's seat in a short time, temporarily or permanently. Mrs. Lutetage, the countess cochere, quit her

cab because her family convinced her that there was too much ado over her occupation, although she loves to drive. Mme. Duffaut, who was christened the premiere cochere of Paris, has left her cab more gleefully than she took it. She expects to accomplish the same achievement as Mme. Benesoch, the lawyer, and give to France a new citizen. She has been married ten years. Mme. Duffaut was childless, but the open air life and the exercise of driving so strengthened her, she says, as to give her this prospective happiness. Her husband is also a cochere and wife are prophesying a bad time for the baby, both the prospective parents being fond of the whip. Another cochere will retire to marry and a fourth because she has made a fortune, whether in tips does not appear. There remain, however, twenty-two cocheres and there are occasionally new applicants. The women take good care of the horses and give the police less occasion to prosecute than the men and so far have given rise to no scandal.

While the cost of living is advancing all along the line, those having things to pawn can get money cheaper after Wednesday. Beginning with New Year's Day the Mont de Piété lowers its rate of interest from 7 to 4½ per cent. This new rate is likely to interest the Sultan of Morocco, who is reported to have pawned his jewels for \$300,000 after vainly seeking a loan of \$2,000,000. The reduction was not because the jewels were false, but because the Sultan had an exaggerated idea of their value.

The anti-theatre hat crusade is making headway. Joyous throngs which crowded several theatres on Christmas eve fairly stormed at the hat wearers. Cries of "Chapeau, chapeau!" which were at first moderate rose quickly to a vocal bombardment, which was so prolonged that the Palais Royal actors in the wings were unable to take the stage and retorted with cries of "Curtain." At the Theatre Germain the act was interrupted by the cries of the audience. Germain, who was playing in the piece himself, went to the footlights and personally requested one woman to remove her hat for him. She consented and won enthusiastic applause and the whole house was saved for the evening.

CANNED OPERATIC VOICES.
Although undertaken apparently as an advertising scheme by a concern of American origin, a function which took place in the crypt of the Opera the other day is likely to give pleasure to a future generation. Phonographic disks with a machine and full directions as to how to operate it were enclosed there. They have opened a century hence, and will preserve the voices of many notable singers, including Tamagno, Caruso, Scotti, Pol Plancon, Patti, Melba, Schumann-Heink and Calvé. The representative of the Government in expressing his felicitations drew attention to the fact that Théophile Gautier exactly sixty years ago suggested that the time would come when the phonetic conservation of voices would prevent the natural loss of the genius extended in the theatre and prophesied that a method more subtle than photography would give future critics the benefit of sonorous undulations by Mario, a tirade by Rachel and a couplet by Frederick Lemaire.

The operative public awaits the result of a suit by Signor Alvarez against a newspaper for 100,000 francs damages for saying he sang off key.

America contributed to the theatrical week in a takeoff of President Roosevelt and the Bishop of London playing a tennis match and an American millionaire in a seashore palace signing the return of property.

DEPOTS OF OIL FUEL.

English Navy Providing Supplies for Its Light Craft in Case of War.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN.
LONDON, Dec. 28.—In view of the rapidly increasing use of oil fuel in the British navy the Admiralty is creating a number of storage depots at various ports around the coast, subsidiary to the main tanks already established or about to be constructed at the principal naval harbors. Tanks will be placed on tank vessels will be stationed at the ports most likely to be used by torpedo craft in case of war.

Five hundred tons of oil will be stored at Harwich and Grimsby and 1,000 tons at Queensferry and other depots, such as Burrow, Rickenhead and Greenstone. Four 5,000 ton tanks will be constructed at Port Victoria and six of the same capacity will be placed at Plymouth. The excavations for this work will be extensive, as the tanks will be below the level of the ground and surrounded with mounds, to afford defence against attacks from the sea, while the supply pipes, running to jetties, will be laid in deep trenches.

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ROMAN MONUMENTS IN PERIL

SOME NEWLY DISCOVERED ARE DOOMED TO DISAPPEAR.

Parliament Hall Unravels Part of Tomb of Anthony—Great Finds at Ostia—Sculptures Worried Over an Injury to the American Wall—Old and New Conflict.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

ROME, Dec. 28.—In the course of building operations on the House of Parliament the remains of Roman construction of the early imperial times were discovered. They were found of square blocks of travertine, bearing traces of iron. The discoveries were made in a railing which is supposed to have belonged to the tomb of Antoninus.

The exact value of the discovery has not as yet been ascertained owing to the interruption of the holidays, but the remains are doomed to disappear, as they will be covered by the projected extension of the Parliament Hall. Amphorae, earthenware lamps and vases were discovered at Ostia to-day, where Vaglieri, who became noted in the recent Palestine excavations, is now scientifically excavating the place as a virgin field. Important discoveries are expected.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—In every ancient city where growth and expansion are still maintained to-day must often rudely jostle yesterday in a manner distressing to antiquarians, archaeologists and other lovers of the historic past. The lament of these is often heard in London, and even more natural is it that it should be heard in Rome. To-day, while the lovers of old London are praying for the preservation of Crosby Hall, one of the most interesting relics of medieval London, the archaeologists of Rome are raising an alarm that their historic city walls are in danger.

What the municipality has done has been to make several narrow breaches in the walls of Aurelian in order to give access from the city to the new Ludovici quarter. Similar operations are looked for in other quarters. The result has been an outcry

against a havoc "which does not find a parallel even in the darkest periods of the barbaric invasions."

Others while admitting the necessity say it might have been met by the use of an arching pier of the walls instead of pulling down the old brickwork from top to bottom. They say there is not the slightest cause for alarm for the walls as a whole and that if Rome is to become anything more than a pleasure resort for students and archaeologists the interests of the permanent population must to some extent override purely antiquarian considerations.

AMERICANS DEPRESSED.

Berlin Colony Shifting to Dresden, Where It's Cheaper—Club Plan.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN.
BERLIN, Dec. 28.—There has been less gaiety in the American colony here than at any previous Christmas. This is not entirely due to the cold, melancholy, drizzling weather, but partly to the depressing effects of the financial situation in America, which are not yet exhausted, and are responsible for a species of exodus to Dresden, where the living is cheaper.

Paul Knox of ragtime fame, one of the leading spirits of the American minstrel show, is now rehearsing for February 1. He is trying to form an American club of men from those who expressed willingness to join the projected but abandoned scheme for a Harvard club.

The prospects, however, of any club of the kind being established on a permanent basis here are very poor.

The Kaiser will give a farewell audience on Monday to Lieutenant-Commander W. L. Howard and will at the same time receive Lieutenant-Commander Belknap, his successor.

John Powell of Richmond, Va., age 20, made a striking debut at Bechstein Hall to-night. He is the pupil of Letchinsky and is already noted in court circles in Vienna as a composer.

Friends of Paderewski say that the directorship of the Warsaw Conservatory has been offered him as a compliment by his fellow countrymen. It is believed that Paderewski has accepted.

Saks & Company

Herald Square

The Annual January Sale of Lingerie and Undermuslins

Will Be Inaugurated on Thursday, January Second, And Will Be Announced in the Newspapers On Wednesday Morning, January First.

For Monday and Tuesday

A Most Important Sale of

Natural Russian and Hudson Bay Sable Muffs and Neckpieces

At Reductions of One-Half Former Prices.

Natural Russian Sable Sets:

Muff:	Boa:	Formerly:	At:
of five skins	of three skins	\$1,350.00	\$675
of four "	of four "	1,050.00	495
of four "	of four "	750.00	375
of four "	of three "	550.00	275
of three "	of three "	500.00	250

Natural Hudson Bay Sable Muffs and Neckpieces

are offered, ranging in price from 1 Skin Scarfs at \$17.50, to 6 and 8 skin pieces, up to \$125; representing in each instance a reduction of more than one-half from former prices.

Natural Mink Muffs, Fifty in number. Value \$35.00, } \$19.50

Radical Price Reductions in Street & Evening Coats for Women Monday, December 30th,

Evening Coats

of imported broadcloths, chiffon velvets or satins, in black, white or pastel colors.
Heretofore - \$35, \$39.50 and \$45; at \$16.00
" 55, 68.00 and 75; at 27.00
" 85, 98.00 and 125; at 39.00
" 145, 155.00 and 168; at 75.00

Black Cloth & Cheviot Coats

Full length models.

Heretofore \$29.50 to \$35; at \$19.00
" 39.00 to 45; at 29.50

Karakul Cloth Coats

Heretofore \$35.00; at \$22.50
" 39.00; at 25.00
" 48.00; at 29.50
" 55.00; at 33.00

Princess Dresses

of broadcloths, messalines and voiles
Heretofore \$50.00; at \$29.50
" 65 to 75; at 38.50
" 75 to 98; at 48.00

Tailored Suits

(In sizes for misses and small women)

of broadcloth and velvets.
Heretofore \$39.50 to \$50.00; at \$24.00
(In sizes for women)
of plain or fancy broadcloths.
Heretofore \$37.50 to 48.50; at \$29.50

Revillon
Founded 1723

We Are Determined To Carry Nothing Over To the Next Fur Season

This determination is in accordance with the policy of the Revillon firm, which contemplates offering to their patrons at the beginning of each season an absolutely new and fresh stock of fur goods. Hence we announce, beginning January 2d,

A Sale Extraordinary

of the following articles

Fur Coats, Collars and Sets
Fur-lined Garments in Cloth and Silk
Men's Fur and Fur-lined Cloth Coats, Caps, Gloves and Robes
Mounted Floor Rugs
Children's Fur and Fur-lined Cloth Coats, Fur Sets, etc.
Imported Models, a few very desirable ones still remaining

We assure our patrons and the public that a visit to our store in the interest of fur economy will reveal

Unprecedented Reductions

West Thirty-fourth Street, Near Fifth Ave., New York